Instructors:

Felicity Newell, fnewell@ufl.edu, (352)2731967, Dickinson 305

Juan Pablo Gomez, jugomez@ufl.edu, (352)2731967, Dickinson 305

The laboratory component of this course will be divided into two parts: laboratory-based (indoors) and field-based (outdoors).

We will cover basic ornithological materials indoors: anatomy, morphology, and taxonomy followed by lab exam. The remainder of the labs are in the field: approximately half will focus on identifying birds by sight and sound, and studying their natural history. The remaining field labs are designed to teach you important field techniques in avian biology, such as mist netting, recording song, and censusing.

The laboratory component of this course will count for 35% of your final course grade. The 35% will be allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Lab Exam</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Quizzes</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekend Trips</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Notebook</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total: 35% of total Avian Bio grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total: 160 – lab exam (60pts), quizzes (30pts), trips (30pts), notebook (40pts)

Indoor Lab Exam: This will cover material from the internal anatomy/external morphology/birds of the world sections of the lab

Field Quizzes: Every time we go out into the field during normal lab hours (not weekend field trips), we will continue to add species to a finalized list of birds in the Florida area you need to know by sight and sound. There will be three short field quizzes testing your ability to identify birds by sight and sound along the way (dates on schedule).

Field Notebook: You will need to bring a field notebook to record information we give you, keep track of bird species seen and heard, as well as carry out small assignments, both indoors and outdoors, that need to be completed by the end of the lab session. It is also important to write down the following information at the beginning of every field venture (including weekend trips):

- Date
- Location (for instance Lake Alice, Payne’s Prairie NR La Chua Trail, Alachua County, etc.),
- Start time
- Cloud cover (%)
- Wind level (Scale of 0-5)
- Precipitation (Scale of 0-3)

For each field lab it is important to:

- **Be on time.** All field trips will leave from the parking lot in back of Bartram Hall. Because our time in the field is limited, we cannot wait for late-comers. We will keep track of attendance.

- **Dress appropriately.** If it’s going to be hot and sunny, bring protection from the sun (e.g., a hat). If it is cool, dress warmly in layers of clothing. Because we will be walking through undergrowth, good shoes are essential; do not wear sandals.

- **Bring binoculars, a field guide (bird identification book), and your field notebook.**
Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Quizzes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Orientation: Equipment, Bird Identification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Internal Anatomy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>External Anatomy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Birds of the World 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Birds of the World 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>LABORATORY EXAM (starts at 9:35 am, indoors)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Banding Lab (USDA Research Station)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Payne’s Prairie 1: La Chua Trail (Bird Identification)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Payne’s Prairie 2: Bolen Bluff Trail (Bird Identification)</td>
<td>QUIZ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Bird Censusing and Techniques (San Felasco)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Bird Identification: Sound (San Felasco)`</td>
<td>QUIZ 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Prairie Creek 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Prairie Creek 2</td>
<td>QUIZ 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field Trips:
Five Saturday field trips are scheduled. You are required to go on three of them. If space permits, you may go on more than three. But, do not sign up for additional trips until everybody has had a chance to sign up for their three. (We'll let you know when.)

Except where noted, all trips will leave early Saturday morning and return by mid or late afternoon.

**January 23: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge: **MANDATORY**
This trip will focus on wintering ducks and seabirds found around Cape Canaveral. We usually turn up some rare and unusual birds, including Red-throated Loon, Reddish Egret, Long-tailed Duck, and Florida Scrub-Jay. We’ve also seen bobcat, otter, and wild pigs. We will focus on wintering ducks and seabirds, which are usually abundant at this time of year. Because they are...
easy to see, have obvious markings, and don’t readily fly out of sight, they are a good group to start with. It’s a long trip; we may arrive home as late as 7pm.

**Pick 1 Forest Trip**

**February 20: Forest Trip 1 - Ocala National Forest**

**March 12: Forest Trip 2 - Osceola National Forest**
We’ll first go to Osceola National Forest and search for several rare species typical of longleaf pine habitat: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow. We'll then explore other habitats nearby.

**Pick 1 Beach Trip**

**March 26: Beach Trip 1: Cedar Key**
The coast is by far the best place to find birds during migration (see link). So, we’ll take two trips to the Cedar Key area late in the semester -- this one and the Seahorse Key overnight. **We highly recommend that you go on one of them.** We’ll be focusing on migrant shorebirds and songbirds. Also, we'll explore an area of scrub in search of Florida Scrub-Jays.

**April 9 and 10: Beach Trip 2: Seahorse Key Overnight**
The Zoology Department runs a marine biology lab, featuring a Civil War lighthouse, on the island of SeaHorse Key (off the coast of Cedar Key). We’ll leave mid-morning and spend the night in the lighthouse. During spring migration, the area can be swarming with migrants. We always get a lot of species on this trip and never fail turn up rare species. We will also be setting up mist-nets to band birds during this trip. We'll ask for a small contribution to pay for dinner Friday night and for breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

**Grading (for entire Avian Bio Course):**

- First Lecture Exam 15%
- Second Lecture Exam 20%
- Final Exam 30%
- **Laboratory (see handout)** 35%
- Total 100%

**Policy on Missed Exams/Quizzes:**
Exams can be made up **ONLY** if instructors are notified **BEFORE** the exam is given. This policy is strict. If you cannot take the exam at its normally scheduled time, we will schedule you to take the exam earlier on the same day or the day before. In rare circumstances we may let you take the exam after its normally scheduled time.

**Policy on Class Attendance**
Attendance in lecture is strongly encouraged but not mandatory; we don't take role. Students who
miss a lecture are responsible for the material covered that day. Attendance is lab is required, regardless of weather -- you need to show up, rain or shine. Role will be taken and attendance will be taken into account (along with other types of participation) when assigning 5% of the final grade.

**UF Grading Policies**
UF requires that all courses provide information on university-wide grading policies. Click [here](#) for that information.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities**
We are committed to accommodating all types of students in Avian Biology. If you need accommodation of any type, please let us know. You need to know that there is a formal process for doing so. Here it is, quoted from the Dean of Students Office: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."
This policy is in place to protect your privacy and ensure appropriate accommodations. If, however, you don't feel comfortable registering a disability with the Dean of Students, please don't let that stop you from asking us to help accommodate your needs.

**Required Texts:**
Frank Gill: "Ornithology" 3rd edition. (2nd edition can also be used; check with Scott for instructions).
David Sibley. "The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America" (or equivalent field guide, such as Peterson's *Eastern Birds*) NOTE: Field guides cover different geographic areas. We highly recommend you get one for EASTERN North America.
Also Required:
**A pair of binoculars and field notebook**